



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LANSING

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES
DIRECTOR

December 12, 2007

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the following regulations concerning the use of minnows:

MCL 324.48729a

A person shall not take or possess minnows, wigglers, or crayfish for commercial purposes from any of the waters over which this state has jurisdiction; import minnows, wigglers, or crayfish for commercial purposes from outside of this state; or transport minnows, wigglers, or crayfish without having first procured a license as provided in section 48732. (Note: section 48732 refers to retail minnow, wholesale minnow, and minnow catcher licenses)

MCL 324.48728 defines "Commercial purposes" as offering for sale, selling, giving, or furnishing to others.

A resident charter boat operator or resident fishing guide who purchases minnows from a Michigan minnow dealer and furnishes them for use by clients would require a retail minnow license. A resident charter boat operator or resident fishing guide who takes minnows from Michigan waters and furnishes them for use by clients is deemed to have taken minnows for commercial purposes and would require both a minnow catcher license and a retail minnow license. In both of the above situations this is pertinent whether the minnows are furnished free or included as a part of the charter/guide fee package.

A resident charter boat operator or resident fishing guide, who takes minnows from Michigan waters and sells them to other charter boat operators for use by clients, is taking and selling or possessing and selling minnows at wholesale, and would require a minnow catcher's license as well as a resident wholesale minnow license.

Non-resident charter boat operators and fishing guides, who purchase minnows to furnish for use by clients, require a retail minnow license. Again, this is pertinent whether the minnows are furnished free or included as a part of the charter/guide fee package.

Non-residents are not allowed to take minnows for commercial purposes from any of the waters of this state and would be ineligible to secure a minnow catcher's license.

In addition, please be aware that in 2007 the department has come out with new regulations regarding certain bait species and VHS disease transmission. These regulations can be viewed on the department's web site under the Fisheries Division at <http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10364---,00.html>.

You can obtain an application by calling Cecilia Gilson, Office of Land and Facilities, Customer Systems at 517-335-3274, or by clicking on the following link:

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Keith J. Charters, Chair • Mary Brown • Hurley J. Coleman, Jr. • Darnell Earley • Bob Garner • John Madigan • Frank Wheatlake

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